

# Severe Weather Preparedness

---



South Dakota's  
Statewide  
Tornado Drill

Wednesday,  
April 28, 2004

Test Watch - 10:00 am CDT  
Test Warning - 10:15 am CDT  
Cancellation - 10:30 am CDT



---

South Dakota Severe Weather  
Preparedness Week  
April 26–30, 2004



# Introduction

The South Dakota Office of Emergency Management publishes this handbook with the hope that the information it contains will prove helpful to the residents of South Dakota. The goal of "Severe Weather Preparedness" is to teach every South Dakota resident how to prepare for and respond to threatening weather. We appreciate your efforts to help relay this critical and lifesaving information. Please feel free to photocopy and distribute the information included in the handbook.

This handbook contains vital safety information and severe/hazardous weather terms. These components come together to prompt South Dakota citizens to assess and evaluate their preparedness plans at home, school, work and at play.

**We urge you to read this book now.** Many of the tips that are presented are predicated on the supposition that you will take actions now which will prevent the danger to life and limb from ever occurring.

The information contained in this book has been compiled by various agencies concerned with the safety of our citizens. In one way or another, either as an original source or through a combination of documents, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the American Red Cross and the National Weather Service should be listed as the major agencies imparting these lifesaving ideas.

---

Prepared by

South Dakota Office of Emergency Management  
Public Safety Building  
118 West Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501  
(605) 773-3231

This publication may be found on the South Dakota OEM homepage at  
<http://www.state.sd.us/dps/sddem/home.htm>

---

---



# Table of Contents

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| Severe/Hazardous Weather Terms .....          | 1    |
| Preparing Your Family for Disaster .....      | 2    |
| Emergency Supplies Checklist.....             | 3    |
| Helping Your Child After a Disaster .....     | 4    |
| Pets are Family, Too .....                    | 5    |
| Loss Prevention Tips.....                     | 6    |
| Tornado Facts .....                           | 7    |
| Tornado Safety Tips .....                     | 8    |
| Thunderstorm/Lightning Facts.....             | 9    |
| Thunderstorm/Lightning Safety Tips.....       | 10   |
| Flood Facts .....                             | 11   |
| Flood Safety Tips .....                       | 11   |
| Flood Insurance Facts .....                   | 12   |
| Flood Insurance and Disaster Assistance.....  | 13   |
| Health and Safety Concerns - Floods.....      | 14   |
| Excessive Heat Facts .....                    | 15   |
| Preparing for Household Fires.....            | 16   |
| When Wildfire Threatens .....                 | 17   |
| Safety Tips for Motorists in Emergencies..... | 18   |
| Emergency Planning for Schools .....          | 19   |
| Safety Activities .....                       | 21   |
| StormReady .....                              | 22   |
| NOAA Weather Radio.....                       | 23   |
| County Emergency Management Agencies.....     | 24   |
| Tribal Emergency Management Agencies.....     | 25   |
| Internet Addresses of Interest .....          | 25   |
| Homeland Security Advisory System .....       | 27   |

---



# Severe/Hazardous Weather Terms

Warning - A product issued by National Weather Service local offices indicating that a particular weather hazard is either imminent or occurring. A warning indicates the need to take action to protect life and property. Typical warnings include:

- Tornado Warning
- Severe Thunderstorm Warning
- Flash Flood/Flood Warning
- Excessive Heat Warning

Watch - A NWS product indicating that conditions are favorable for the development of a particular severe weather event. A watch is normally issued for several hours and indicates a need for planning, preparation and an increased awareness of changing weather conditions. Typical watches include:

- Tornado Watch
- Severe Thunderstorm Watch
- Flood Watch

Cold Air Funnels - Weak funnel cloud protuberance from cumuliform clouds that typically remain aloft. They form in cold unstable air masses and are not usually associated with thunderstorms or severe weather.

Downburst - Intense gust of wind or downdraft that exits the base of a thunderstorm and spreads out horizontally at the earth's surface as a strong wind which often causes damage.

Flash Flood - A flood that can occur very rapidly. Flash floods occur as the result of very heavy rainfall in a short period of time, generally over a relatively small area.

Flood - The condition that occurs when water overflows the natural or artificial confines of a stream or body of water or accumulates by drainage over low lying areas.

Funnel Cloud - Violently rotating column of air that is not in contact with the ground. A tornado passes through the funnel cloud state during its development and dissipation.

Gust Front - The leading edge of a mass of cool, gusty air that flows from the base of a thunderstorm and spreads along the ground in advance of the thunderstorm.

Lightning - Generally, any and all of the various forms of electrical discharge produced by thunderstorms.

Severe Thunderstorm - A thunderstorm producing a tornado, damaging winds of 58 mph or higher and/or hail 3/4" in diameter or larger.

Squall Line - Any line or narrow band of thunderstorms. These lines may be of considerable length, extending across multiple states.

Straight Line Winds - Thunderstorm winds that may produce damage which typically exhibits a lack of a rotational damage pattern. Straight line winds are most often produced by a thunderstorm gust front originating from a downburst.

Thunderstorm - In general, a local storm produced by a cumulonimbus cloud and accompanied by lightning and thunder, usually with strong wind gusts, heavy rain and sometimes hail.

Tornado - Violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground, descending from the base of a severe thunderstorm. They are usually funnel-shaped, with a narrow end nearest the ground.

# Preparing Your Family for Disaster

When preparing your family for disaster, prepare to be on your own for at least three days. Chances are likely that after a major disaster, emergency response teams may not be able to provide immediate care to your family.

## The Plan

### Before a Disaster Strikes:

Have at least a three-day supply of food, water, clothes, medical supplies and other necessary equipment for everyone in your family. (Refer to Emergency Supplies Checklist)

Learn first-aid and CPR.

Know the locations of the nearest fire and police stations.

Decide where and when to reunite your family should you be apart when a disaster happens.

Locate shutoff valves for water, gas and electricity. Learn how to shut off the valves before a disaster.

Choose a person outside the immediate area to contact if family members are separated. Long distance phone service will probably be restored sooner than local service. Do not use the phone immediately following a disaster.

If you have a family member who does not speak English, prepare an emergency card written in English indicating that person's identification, address and any special needs such as medication or allergies. Tell that person to keep the card with them at all times.

Conduct fire drills once every six months.

Know the "safe spots" in each room.

Make copies of your vital records and store them in a safe deposit box. Make sure your originals are stored safely.

Establish all the possible ways to exit your home. Keep all exits clear of debris.

Take photos and videotapes of your home and your valuables. Make copies and place them in a safe deposit box.

Make sure all family members know about your disaster plan. Also, relay this information to babysitters or others who might be in your home.

Know the policies of the school and daycare your children attend. Designate others to pick up your child should you be unable to pick them up.

### During an Emergency or Disaster:

Keep calm, take time to think, give assistance where needed.

Turn on your radio for official information and instructions.

Use the telephone only for emergency calls.

If requested to evacuate, take your emergency supplies and go to a safe location or to temporary shelters as directed by officials.

### After the Emergency or Disaster is Over:

Use caution when entering damaged buildings and homes.

Stay away from damaged electrical wires and wet appliances.

Check food and water supplies for contamination.

Notify your relatives that you are safe. However, don't tie up phone lines if they are needed for emergency calls.



# Emergency Supplies Checklist

Stocking up now on emergency supplies can add to your safety and comfort during and after a disaster. Store enough supplies to last for three days.

## Survival Essentials

- Water - one gallon per person per day
- First-aid kit - freshly stocked
- First-aid book
- Food - packaged, canned, no-cook, baby food and for special diets
- Can opener (non-electric)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Baby supplies - formula, bottles, pacifiers, diapers, wipes, food and juices
- Portable radio and flashlights with extra batteries
- Essential medications, list of medications including dosage and list of allergies
- Extra eyeglasses and hearing aid batteries
- Extra house and car keys
- Fire extinguisher - ABC type
- Water, food and a restraint (leash or carrier) for pets
- Small amount of money

## Sanitation Supplies

- Large plastic trash bags for waste and water protection
- Large trash cans
- Bar soap, detergent and shampoo
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Feminine and infant hygiene supplies
- Toilet tissue
- Household bleach
- Newspaper to wrap garbage and waste

**Remember to change perishable supplies and water every six months.**

## Safety and Comfort

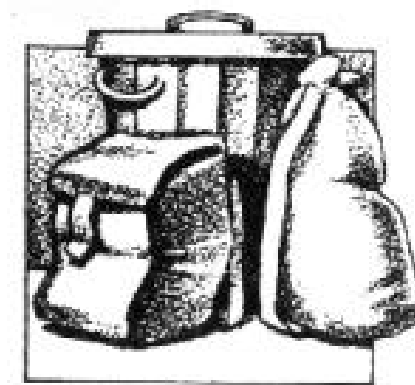
- Sturdy shoes
- Heavy gloves for clearing debris
- Change of clothing
- Knife or razor blades
- Garden hose - for siphoning and fire fighting
- Tent

## Cooking

- Plastic knives, forks and spoons
- Paper plates, napkins and cups
- Paper towels
- Aluminum foil
- Camp stove, barbecue or chafing dish for outdoor cooking
- Fuel for cooking (charcoal, camp stove fuel, etc.)

## Tools and Supplies

- Ax, shovel and broom
- Coil of 1/2" rope
- Wrench for turning off gas
- Screwdriver, pliers and hammer
- Duct tape
- Plastic tape and sheeting for window sealing and replacement or to improvise shelter
- Quiet toys for children



# Helping Your Child After a Disaster

It's important to remember that some children may never show distress, while others may not give evidence of being upset for several weeks or even months. Other children may not show a change in behavior, but may still need your help.

## **Children may exhibit the following behaviors after a disaster:**

Be upset over the loss of a favorite toy, blanket, etc. which are important to them.

Change from being quiet, obedient and caring to loud, noisy and aggressive or may change from being outgoing to shy and afraid.

Develop nighttime fears (nightmares, fear of the dark or sleeping alone).

Be afraid the event will reoccur.

Become easily upset, crying and whining.

Lose trust in adults. After all, their adults were not able to control the disaster.

Revert to younger behavior (bed wetting, thumb sucking).

Not want parents out of their site. Refuse to go to school or daycare.

Feel guilty they caused the disaster because of something they said or did.

Become afraid of wind, rain or sudden loud noises.

Have symptoms of illness, such as headaches, vomiting or fever.

Worry about where they and their family will live.

## **Things parents can do to help their children:**

Talk with the children about how they are feeling. Assure them that it's OK to have those feelings.

Help the children learn to use words that express their feelings, such as happy, sad, angry, etc.

Children should not be expected to be brave or tough or to "not cry."

Don't give children more information than they can handle about the disaster.

Assure fearful children you will be there to care for them, reassure them over and over.

Go back to former routines as soon as possible. Maintain a regular schedule for the children.

Reassure the children that the disaster was not their fault.

Let the children have some control, such as choosing clothing or what meal to have for dinner.

Help your child learn to trust adults again by keeping promises you make.

Help your children regain faith in the future by making plans for the future.

Get needed health care as soon as possible.

Spend extra time with the children at bedtime.

Make sure the children eat healthy meals and get enough rest.

Allow special privileges for a short period of time, such as leaving the light on when they go to bed.

Find ways to emphasize to the children that you love them.

Allow the children time to grieve losses.

Develop positive anniversary activities to commemorate the event. These may bring tears, but they are also a time to celebrate survival and the ability to get back to a normal life.

# Pets are Family, Too

When preparing your home for disaster, don't forget to include supplies for your pets. When disaster strikes they will need you more than usual to care for their needs and provide for their safety.

## Before a Disaster

Store enough food and water to last at least three days.

Prepare an evacuation kit for your pet. The kit should include:

- An unbreakable dish
- Medications and instructions
- A leash or pet carrier, and
- Your pet's veterinary records

Make arrangements with a neighbor or close relative to care for your pet in the event you are unable to return home immediately following a disaster.

Make sure your pet's ID tag is up to date with accurate information.

## During and After a Disaster

Be patient with your pets after a disaster. Pets get stressed just as people do and may need time to readjust.

Make arrangement for your pet if you must evacuate after a disaster. Remember, pets are not allowed in shelters. Leave your pet in a secure place with ample water and food. If possible, return daily to check on your pet until you can return to your home permanently.



# Loss Prevention Tips

The following steps should be taken by every homeowner before a disaster to assure a speedy, hassle-free recovery after a loss.

## Home Coverage and Preparedness Tips

Tornado losses to a home are covered by the "windstorm peril" under the homeowner's insurance policy.

Check with your insurance agent or company representative now to assure adequate coverage is provided by the homeowner's insurance policy. Be sure to notify them of any additions or improvements to the home.

Consider purchasing the replacement cost coverage endorsement for the home and its contents. This option provides for the rebuilding or replacement of damaged property and belongings at current costs, rather than depreciated values.

## Home Inventories Assist in Settling Claims

It is important that you take time to videotape, photograph or compile a written inventory of your home and belongings. It is extremely difficult - if not impossible - to recall from memory all of your home's belongings, especially after a loss.

Keep the inventory off premises in a safe deposit box. The inventory will provide a record for you and the insurance company, should a loss occur.

Written inventory tips:

- Go through each room of the home and list every item, including the purchase date, price and model/serial numbers. Don't forget basements, closets, attics and the garage.
- Include the appraised value of antiques, jewelry and other costly possessions. Attach professional, written appraisals when necessary.

Video/Photo Inventory Tips:

- Pan the camera around the room in order to capture each item on film.
- Obtain close-ups of expensive items such as jewelry, fine art, stamp collections, china, furs, antiques and silver.
- Consider grouping items for easier inventory.
- Narrate the video by noting the purchase cost and dates. Include model and serial numbers for appliances and electronics.
- Redo your inventory every time you move or every two to three years.

## Auto Coverage and Preparedness Tips

Cars are protected under the "other than collision" (comprehensive) portion of an auto insurance policy, if damaged by windstorms or hail.

When severe weather threatens, move cars under cover to prevent damage from high winds, flying debris and hail.

## After the Loss - Insurance Tips

Contact your insurance agent or company representative as soon as possible.

Photograph any damage and inventory losses, especially if heavy, widespread damage has occurred.

Secure property from further damage or theft and save related receipts, since many insurers will reimburse for these expenses.

If required to seek temporary housing due to a covered loss such as a tornado, check your policy for "loss of use" coverage. Many policies cover such expenses up to a stated amount.

Beware of home repair rip-offs. Carefully check the background of contractors and others who promise "cheap" repairs.

# Tornado Facts

A tornado is a violently rotating column of air extending from a thunderstorm to the ground.

The most violent tornadoes are capable of tremendous destruction with wind speeds of 250 miles per hour or more. Damage paths can be in excess of one mile wide and 50 miles long.

The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes have been known to move in any direction.

The average forward speed of a tornado is 30 miles per hour, but may vary from nearly stationary to 70 miles per hour.

Tornadoes are most likely to occur between 2 p.m. and 10 p.m., but have been known to occur at any hour - day or night.

Tornadoes can be classified into one of three types:

- Weak Tornadoes (F0/F1) - account for 70 percent of all tornadoes; cause less than 5 percent of tornado deaths; lifetime is usually 1 to 10(+) minutes; wind speeds are less than 113 mph.
- Strong Tornadoes (F2/F3) - account for 29 percent of all tornadoes; cause nearly 30 percent of all tornado deaths; may last 20 minutes or longer; wind speeds are 113 mph to 206 mph.
- Violent Tornadoes (F4/F5) - account for only 1 percent of all tornadoes; cause 70 percent of all tornado deaths; may last for one hour or more; wind speeds are greater than 206 mph.

The National Weather Service (NWS) uses Doppler weather radars to detect the air movement within thunderstorms. Early detection of increasing rotation aloft within a thunderstorm can allow lifesaving warnings before the tornado forms.

Tornadoes are usually preceded by very heavy rain and/or large hail. If hail falls from a thunderstorm, it is an indication that the storm has large amounts of energy and may be severe. In general, the larger the hailstones, the more potential for damaging thunderstorm winds and/or tornadoes.

## *South Dakota Tornado Facts*

From 1950 to 2003, there has been a total of 1447 tornadoes.

The peak time for tornadoes is June - a total of 612 occurred.

The most tornadoes in one year was 86 in 2003, when South Dakota tied the national record.

On June 24, 2003, 67 tornadoes touched down in South Dakota. This event tied the U.S. record for the most tornadoes within a state during a 24 hour time period, established in Texas on September 20, 1967, during Hurricane Beulah. Actually, all 67 tornadoes occurred in eastern South Dakota (east of the Missouri River) in a period of less than eight hours. The strongest tornado that night was the one that destroyed the town of Manchester; it was rated an F4 on the Fujita scale with winds estimated at 207-260 mph. No deaths and only 7 injuries occurred; total damage was almost 13.5 million dollars.

# Tornado Safety Tips

Tornadoes can occur without warning, giving you very little time to act. It is important to know the basics of tornado safety so that you can survive, should a tornado strike.

Tune in to one of the following for weather information: radio, local television, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio, cable TV or The Weather Channel.

Take responsibility for your safety and be prepared now before a watch or warning is issued. Meet with household members to create a plan for how to respond to tornado watches and warnings. Conduct regular tornado drills. When a tornado watch is issued, review your plan - don't wait for the watch to become a warning. Learn how to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main switches.

The safest place to be during a tornado is underground. Once there, try to find something sturdy you can crawl under. Getting underneath a work bench or heavy table will protect you from flying debris and/or a collapsed roof. If you have no basement or cellar, go to a small room (a bathroom or

closet) on the lowest level of the structure, away from windows and as close to the center of the structure as possible.

Be aware of emergency shelter plans in buildings and schools where you and your family spend time. If a specific shelter does not exist, move to the building's lowest level. Try to avoid areas with large glass windows, large rooms and wide-span roofs such as auditoriums, cafeterias, large hallways or shopping malls.

If you are outside, in a car or mobile home, go immediately to the lowest level of a nearby sturdy building. Sturdy buildings are the safest place to be when tornadoes threaten. Winds from

tornadoes can blow large objects, including cars and mobile homes, hundreds of feet away. Tornadoes can change direction quickly and lift up a car or truck, tossing it through the air. Never try to out-drive a tornado. Mobile homes are particularly vulnerable. A mobile home can overturn very easily even if precautions have been taken to tie down the unit.

If there is no building nearby, lie flat in a low spot. Use your arms and hands to protect your head as tornadoes cause debris to be blown at very high speeds. Do not seek shelter under highway overpasses and bridges - weaker structures could be destroyed from the high winds and dangerous flying debris. You will be safer lying flat in a low-lying area where wind and debris can blow above you.

Tornadoes come from severe thunderstorms, which can produce a lot of rain. If you see water rising quickly or flood waters coming toward you, move to a higher spot.



# Thunderstorm/Lightning Facts

Thunderstorms are a common spring and summer occurrence throughout the state of South Dakota. Many residents may not realize that thunderstorm winds and lightning kill more people every year than tornadoes.

Lightning is a major threat during a thunderstorm. In the United States, between 75 and 100 Americans are killed each year by lightning. If you are outdoors during a thunderstorm, avoid natural lightning rods such as tall, isolated trees in open areas or on top of a hill, and metal objects such as wire fences, golf clubs, and tools.

All thunderstorms produce lightning. Lightning is an electrical discharge that results from the buildup of positive and negative charges within a thunderstorm. When the buildup becomes strong enough, lightning appears as a "bolt."

Lightning often strikes outside of heavy rain and may occur as far as 10 miles away from any rainfall.

In any given thunderstorm, approximately two-thirds of the lightning occurs from

cloud-to-cloud and about one-third from cloud-to-ground.

A typical thunderstorm is 15 miles in diameter and lasts 30 minutes.

Nearly 1,800 thunderstorms occur at any moment around the world. That's 16 million storms per year.

Of the estimated 100,000 thunderstorms that occur each year in the United States, only about 10 percent are classified severe.

Severe thunderstorms can produce damaging winds as strong as the winds in a weak tornado and can be life threatening.

A severe thunderstorm can produce hail that is 3/4 inch in diameter or larger and/or winds of 58 miles per hour or higher and can produce tornadoes.

Large hail causes nearly \$1 billion in damage to property and crops annually.

The costliest U.S. hailstorm occurred in Denver, July 11, 1990. Total hail damage was estimated at \$625 million.

Lightning strikes the earth 100 times every second.

Some thunderstorms can be seen approaching, while others strike without warning. It is important to learn and recognize the danger signs and to plan ahead.



**National Lightning Awareness Week is June 20-26, 2004.**



# Thunderstorm/Lightning Safety Tips

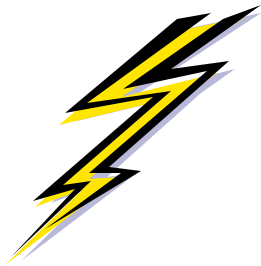
## The following safety tips can protect you during a thunderstorm:

If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. Go to safe shelter immediately, such as a sturdy building or car. Do not take shelter in small sheds, under isolated trees or in convertible automobiles.

Telephone lines and metal pipes can conduct electricity. Unplug appliances not necessary for obtaining weather information. Avoid using electrical appliances. Phone use is the leading cause of indoor lightning injuries in the United States. Avoid contact with corded phones.

Turn off air conditioners. Power surges from lightning can overload the compressors.

Do not take a bath or shower. Water is an electrical conductor.



## The following safety tips can help when you are caught outdoors and no shelter is nearby:

If lightning is occurring and a shelter is not available, get inside a hard top automobile and keep the windows up.

If no automobile is available, find a low spot away from trees, fences and poles. Be alert to the possibility of flash flooding.

If you are in the woods, take shelter under short trees or bushes.

If you feel your skin tingle or your hair stand on end, squat low to the ground on the balls of your feet. Place your hands on your knees with your head between them. Make yourself the smallest target possible and minimize your contact with the ground.

If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter immediately.

Stay away from open outdoor spaces.

For additional information on lightning safety and education, visit the National Weather Service website at <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov> and the Lightning Protection Institute website at <http://www.lightning.org>.

The '30/30' rule for lightning safety could save your life. The first '30' means that you need to take cover if you hear thunder within 30 seconds of the lightning flash ('flash to bang' ratio). Then wait at least 30 minutes after the last lightning flash or thunder in order to resume normal activity - the "all clear" signal. Lightning research has confirmed that consecutive lightning strikes can occur as much as six miles apart. People often do not perceive lightning to be close if it is two miles or more away, but the risk of the next strike being at your location may actually be very high. Many lightning casualties occur in the beginning as a thunderstorm approaches because people ignore these precursors. When thunderstorms are in the area but not overhead, the lightning threat can exist even if it is sunny at your location. Practice the '30/30' rule and be lightning safe!



## Flood Facts

Floods are a leading weather-related killer in the United States. In the past 30 years, floods have accounted for nearly double the fatalities as lightning.

U.S. property damage from flooding now exceeds \$1 billion every year.

Three types of flooding that can occur are:

**General River Flooding** - occurs after long-term heavy rain, snow melt or a combination of the two. It usually occurs slowly, allowing more time to move people and property to safety.

**Flash Flooding** - named for its sudden, in-a-flash occurrence, is deceptively dangerous. In a few moments, the flow in a small, almost unnoticed stream or ditch can become a deadly and destructive torrent. Then, just as suddenly, can drop back to normal flow. Flash flooding can occur anywhere that the amount of water exceeds an area's capability to absorb it or convey it within banks of existing channels.

**Urban and Small Stream Flooding** - a subtle flood threat. It can occur when heavy rain falls in an urban or rural area, resulting in flooding streets, underpasses or drainage ditches in an urban area or creeks in rural areas. It is not normally a threat unless motorists drive through the flooded road or children play in flooded drainage ditches. Small stream flooding can be hazardous if persons get too close to a swollen creek.

Most flood-related deaths occur when people attempt to walk or drive into a flooded area. Many flood-related deaths also occur at night, when it is difficult to recognize the dangers of a water-covered road.

## Flood Safety Tips

Flood-related injuries and fatalities can be greatly reduced by increasing public awareness of the dangers involved in floods and flash floods. These tips can help protect you during flood events.

About 40 percent of flood-related deaths occur in motor vehicles. Never attempt to drive into a flooded roadway. It only takes about two feet of water to float most cars. A common remark of motorists who survived driving through a flooded road and were swept away was that they only thought the water was a few inches deep.

Even if the vehicle in front of you successfully crossed a water-covered road, it is best to find an alternate route or to wait. If you get stuck, you are not only risking your own life, but the lives of rescue personnel.

If you live in a low-lying area or near a creek, pay close attention to water levels during heavy rain events. Water rises rapidly during flash floods, often taking victims by surprise. Be prepared to move quickly to higher ground if water levels begin rising rapidly.

Trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles are also susceptible to being swept away by high water. Such vehicles often give motorists a false sense of security, believing that they can drive through high water. This belief results in numerous deaths or emergency rescues of motorists in vehicles either stuck in or swept away by floodwaters.

Never let children play near creeks or storm drains. Every year, deaths or injuries occur as a result of people getting swept into a creek or storm drain, with the most frequent victims being children.

If you are camping, never place your tent or camper on the bank of a river or creek. Allowing some distance between your campsite and the creek is best, so if a flash flood does occur, you will have more time to move to higher ground.

# Flood Insurance Facts

Flooding is not covered by a standard homeowner's insurance policy.

Federal flood insurance is only available in communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). In South Dakota, every city, town and county (unincorporated areas) can choose to be an NFIP-participating community.

Any walled and roofed building in an NFIP-participating community is eligible for flood insurance, whether or not it is in a regulated floodplain.

A manufactured (mobile) home can be insured if it is installed on a permanent site and flood-anchored.

There is a 30-day waiting period after a policy is purchased before coverage goes into affect. However, if a policy is required by a lender as a condition for obtaining a mortgage, then the coverage takes effect at closing.

Any licensed property casualty insurance agent or broker can sell the Standard Flood Insurance Policy. Two types are available:

- Structural Coverage on walls, floors, insulation, furnace and items permanently attached to structure.
- Contents Coverage for items such as furniture, appliances and other household items (must be purchased separately from Structural Coverage).

Flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster is not declared by the President.

For additional information on standard flood insurance policies, visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency website at <http://www.fema.gov/fima/nfip.shtm>.

## National Flood Insurance Program

### South Dakota Summary

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Communities with federally identified hazard areas .....         | 219           |
| NFIP-participating communities .....                             | 202           |
| Non-NFIP-participating communities with flood hazard areas ..... | 17            |
| Number of flood insurance policies sold .....                    | 2,928         |
| Total coverage .....   | \$322,819,300 |
| Total premium .....  | \$1,458,413   |
| Average cost per policy .....                                    | \$498         |
| Number of claims paid (since 1978) .....                         | 1594          |
| Value of claims .....  | \$13,470,499  |



# Flood Insurance and Disaster Assistance

*"Will disaster assistance be available if my home or business is flooded?"*

*"How expensive is flood insurance?"*

*"Is my home at risk if we've never been flooded before?"*

**If you have questions as to whether or not you need flood insurance, consider the following:**

- Most forms of federal disaster assistance are only offered if the President declares a major disaster.
- Ninety percent of all disasters are not Presidentially declared.
- Both the Federal and State of South Dakota Individual Assistance Grant programs to reimburse disaster victims for up to \$25,000 of their essential, uninsured personal property losses are available only if the President declares a major disaster.
- The most typical form of federal disaster assistance is a loan that must be paid back with interest.
- To qualify for home repair assistance, your home must have relatively minor damages that can be repaired quickly. No rental assistance is available unless your home has been destroyed or significantly damaged.
- Floods are the most common natural disaster.
- Buildings in flood hazard areas have a 26 percent chance of being flooded during a 30-year mortgage.
- In 2002, the average premium for a National Flood Insurance program policy in South Dakota was \$498 per year.
- Homeowners, business owners and renters can all purchase flood insurance as long as their community participates in the NFIP. Flood insurance claims are paid even if a disaster is not declared by the President.
- Flood insurance reimburses you for all covered losses. Disaster aid is limited to replacing essential items only. Homeowners can obtain coverage limits up to \$250,000 of coverage and businesses up to \$500,000. Separate contents coverage is also available.
- Maintaining a flood insurance policy is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself and reduce the cost of flood disasters.



# Health and Safety Concerns - Floods

---

Every year, some 200,000 Americans are driven from their homes because of floods. Returning home after flood waters recede can be a devastating and potentially hazardous venture. Follow these sensible suggestions when returning to a home after the flood.

---

Often during emergencies, local health departments and county emergency management agencies provide information on where to find safe drinking water. If using one of these resources, remember to collect water in a clean, covered container.

If drinking water is not available, state health officials suggest people locate other sources of safe liquids like juices, soft drinks, milk and beverages not exposed to floodwaters. Other sources may include water from a hot water heater not affected by the flooding, melted ice cubes, water stored in clean, covered containers and water stored in a bathtub.

Be sure drinking water is not contaminated. Wells inundated by flood waters should be pumped out and the water tested before drinking. If in doubt, call your local public health safety authority.

Throw away food that has come in contact with flood waters. Some canned foods may be salvageable. If the cans are dented or damaged, throw them away. Food contaminated by flood waters can cause severe infections.

Use battery-powered lanterns or flashlights when examining buildings. Battery-powered lighting is the safest and easiest, preventing fire hazard for the user, occupants and building.

Seek necessary medical care at the nearest hospital or clinic. Food, clothing, shelter and first aid may be available at volunteer shelters like those sponsored by the American Red Cross.

Look for electrical system damage. If you see sparks, broken or frayed wires or if you smell burning insulation, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box or circuit breaker. If you have to step in water to get to the fuse box or circuit breaker, call an electrician first for advice. Electrical equipment should be checked and dried before being returned to service.

Report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities.

Avoid entering ANY building (home, business or other) before local officials have said it is safe to do so. Buildings may have hidden damage that makes them unsafe.

Do not visit disaster areas. Your presence might hamper rescue and other emergency operations.



# Excessive Heat Facts

Excessive heat occurs from a combination of high temperatures (significantly above normal) and high humidity. The heat index is a number in degrees Fahrenheit (F) that tells how hot it really feels when relative humidity is added to the actual air temperature. Exposure to full sunshine can increase the heat index by 15 degrees.

Excessive heat triggers a variety of medical emergencies. Even healthy people should take it easy during extremely high temperatures and those with respiratory and other health problems must be especially careful.

The NWS has developed two terms that let the public know when excessive heat is occurring:

- **Excessive Heat Warning:** A warning is issued when a daytime heat index of 105 degrees Fahrenheit is expected to last more than three hours a day for two consecutive days or when the daytime heat index is expected to exceed 115 degrees Fahrenheit for any length of time.
- **Heat Advisory:** An advisory is issued when the daytime heat index is expected to reach 105 degrees Fahrenheit or above (but less than 115 degrees) for less than three hours and the nightly lows are expected to remain above 80 degrees for two consecutive days.

Some tips to prevent a medical heat emergency are:

- Stay indoors as much as possible and avoid too much sunshine. If you must work outdoors, take frequent breaks.
- Increase your intake of fluids. Water is the best and safest liquid to drink during a heat emergency. Avoid beverages with alcohol or caffeine - they can cause dehydration.
- Eat small meals and eat more often. Large, heavy meals are difficult to digest and cause your body to increase internal heat to aid digestion.
- Protect the face and head by wearing a wide-brimmed hat. Also, wear loose, lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- NEVER leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.

Heat-related injuries fall into three major categories:

**Heat cramps** are muscular pains and spasms that occur due to heavy exertion. Although heat cramps are the least severe, they are often the first signal that the body is having trouble with the heat. To treat heat cramps get the person to a cooler place, resting in a comfortable position. Lightly stretch the affected muscle and replenish fluids. Give a half glass of cool water every 15 minutes. Do not give liquids with alcohol or caffeine in them - they can cause further dehydration.

**Heat exhaustion** typically occurs when people exercise heavily or work in a hot, humid place where body fluids are lost through heavy, profuse sweating. Left untreated the victim's symptoms will worsen and they could suffer a heat stroke. Some signs of heat exhaustion: cool, moist, pale or flushed skin; heavy sweating; headache; nausea or vomiting; dizziness; and exhaustion. To treat, move the person to a cooler place. Remove or loosen tight clothing and apply cool, wet cloths. If the person is conscious, give them cool water to drink slowly - half a glass every 15 minutes. Let the victim rest in a comfortable position and watch carefully for changes in his or her condition.

**Heat stroke** is life threatening. The body's temperature can rise so high that brain damage and death may result if the body is not cooled quickly. Some signs of heat stroke are hot, red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; and rapid, shallow breathing. Help is needed fast. Call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Move the person to a cooler place and cool the body. Immerse victim in a cool bath or wrap wet sheets around the body and fan it. Watch for signs of breathing problems. Keep the person lying down and continue to cool the body any way you can. If the victim refuses water, is vomiting or there are changes in the level of consciousness, do not give anything to eat or drink.

# Preparing for Household Fires

## Protecting Against Fires

- Make sure your house number is clearly visible and fire trucks can reach your home.
- Install smoke detectors outside all sleeping areas or in each bedroom and on every level of your home, including the basement.
- Install A-B-C type fire extinguishers; teach family members how to use them.
- Check smoke detectors on a regular basis and replace the batteries twice yearly.
- Consider installing a residential sprinkler system.
- Know the location of all exits. If you live in an apartment, count the number of doorways between your apartment and the two nearest exits. Be familiar with all exits, including the windows.
- Plan your escape. Know two ways out of every room in case smoke or flames block your primary exit.
- Choose a meeting place outside the home and be sure all family members are accounted for. If someone is missing, let the fire department know. Do not go back inside. Practice your plan with all family members.
- Escape plans and exit drills will help ensure that you can get out quickly when there is no time for mistakes.
- Sleep with your bedroom door closed.
- Keep folding/chain style ladders stored in each upstairs bedroom.
- Mark bedroom windows outside of the building of children and others who may not be able to self-rescue.
- Learn how to turn off gas and electricity in an emergency.



## If Fire Strikes

- If there is a fire - evacuate and call 9-1-1 from a neighbor's house.
- Never use water on an electrical fire.
- If caught in smoke, drop to your hands and knees and crawl; breathe shallowly through your nose and use your blouse, shirt or jacket as a filter.
- If you are forced to advance through flames, hold your breath, move quickly, cover your head and hair, keep your head down and close your eyes as much as possible.
- Smother oil and grease fires in the kitchen with baking soda or salt or put a lid over the flame if it is burning in a pan.
- If your clothes catch fire, "Stop, Drop and Roll" until the fire is out.
- If you are in a room and cannot escape, leave the door closed, stay low to the floor and hang a white or light-colored sheet outside the window.



# When Wildfire Threatens

If you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area, listen to your battery-operated radio for reports and evacuation information. *Follow the instructions of local officials.*

Back your car into the garage or park it in an open space facing the direction of escape. Shut doors and roll up windows. Leave the key in the ignition. Close garage windows and doors, but leave them unlocked. Disconnect automatic garage door openers.

Confine pets to one room. Make plans to care for your pets in case you must evacuate.

Arrange temporary housing at a friend or relative's home outside the threatened area.

## **If advised to evacuate, do so immediately**

- Wear protective clothing - sturdy shoes, cotton or woolen clothing, long pants, a long-sleeved shirt, gloves and a handkerchief to protect your face.
- Take your Disaster Supplies Kit.
- Lock your home.
- Tell someone when you left and where you are going.
- Choose a route away from fire hazards. Watch for changes in the speed and direction of fire and smoke.

## **If you're sure you have time, take steps to protect your home**

### Inside:

- Close windows, vents, doors, Venetian blinds or non-combustible window coverings and heavy drapes. Remove lightweight curtains.
- Shut off the gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Open fireplace damper. Close fireplace screens.
- Move flammable furniture into the center of the home away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Turn on a light in each room to increase the visibility of your home in heavy smoke.

### Outside:

- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Place combustible patio furniture inside.
- Connect garden hose to outside taps.
- Place lawn sprinklers on the roof and near aboveground fuel tanks. Wet the roof.
- Wet or remove shrubs within 15 feet of the home.
- Gather fire tools.

# Safety Tips for Motorists in Emergencies

Americans are world-famous for their long-term love affair with the automobile. In times of emergency, however, people often react incorrectly, either staying with or abandoning their cars at the wrong time. A mistake can be fatal.

After almost every disaster, search and rescue teams find victims who might have survived if they had known whether to stay with or leave their cars.

Following are safety tips for drivers in various types of emergencies. This information should be kept in the glove compartment of your car. In any situation, the most important rule is: **Don't Panic!**

## Flood

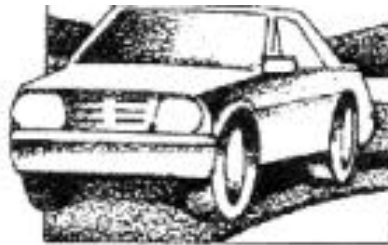
### **Get Out of the Car**

Never attempt to drive through water on a road. Water can be deeper than it appears and water levels can rise very quickly. Most cars will float dangerously for at least a short while. A car can be buoyed by floodwaters and then swept downstream during a flood. Floodwaters also can erode waterways and a missing section of road - even a missing bridge - will not be visible with water running over the area. Wade through floodwaters only if the water is not flowing rapidly and only in water no higher than the knees. If a car stalls in floodwater, get out quickly and move to higher ground. The floodwaters may still be rising and the car could be swept away at any moment.

## Tornado

### **Get Out of the Car**

A car is the least safe place to be during a tornado. When a warning is issued, do not try to leave the area by car. If you are in a car, leave it and find



shelter in a building. If a tornado approaches and there are no safe structures nearby, lie flat in a ditch or other ground depression with your arms over your head.

## Summer Heat

### **Stay Out of a Parked Car**

During hot weather, heat build-up in a closed or nearly closed car can occur quickly and intensely. Children and pets can die from heat stroke in a matter of minutes when left in a closed car. **Never leave anyone in a parked car during periods of high summer heat.**

## Developing Emergency

### **Stay Informed**

In times of developing emergencies, keep a radio or television on and await instructions. If evacuation is recommended, move quickly

but calmly, following instructions as to route to be used, evacuation shelter to be sought and other directions.

### **Keep in the Car**

Cars should be equipped with supplies which could be useful in any emergency. Depending on location, climate of the area, personal requirements and other variables, the supplies in the kit might include (but are not limited to) the following:

- blanket or sleeping bag
- booster cables and tools
- bottled water
- canned fruits and nuts
- can opener
- flashlight
- first-aid kit
- matches and candles
- necessary medication
- rain gear and extra clothes
- shovel
- traction mats or chains

***Never carry gasoline in containers other than the car's gas tank!***



# Emergency Planning for Schools

In an effort to provide school leaders with more information about emergency preparedness, U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige and U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Tom Ridge unveiled a new section on the U.S. Department of Education's Web site - [www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/](http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/) - designed to be a one-stop-shop to help school officials plan for any emergency, including natural disasters, violent incidents and terrorist acts.

## Emergency Plans

If a school doesn't have a school crisis plan in partnership with public safety agencies, including law enforcement and fire, health, mental health and local emergency preparedness agencies, it should develop one. Ensure that it addresses traditional crises and emergencies such as fires, school shootings and accidents, as well as biological, radiological, chemical and other terrorist activities.

If a school does have a crisis plan, it should be reviewed. Ensure that it addresses issues related to terrorism, such as biological, radiological and chemical attacks.

Train, practice and drill. Documents on a shelf don't work in a crisis.

Ensure that the school district crisis plan addresses the unique circumstances and needs of the individual school. Districts are encouraged to develop a separate plan for each school building. Each school crisis plan should address four major areas - prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

Actions that schools should take under each of these areas include:

## Prevention/Mitigation:

- Conduct an assessment of each school building. Identify those factors that put the building, students and staff at greater risk, such as proximity to rail tracks that regularly transport hazardous materials or facilities that produce highly toxic material or propane gas tanks and develop a plan for reducing the risk. This can include plans to evacuate students away from these areas in times of crisis and to reposition propane tanks or other hazardous materials away from school buildings.
- Work with businesses and factories in close proximity to the school to ensure that the school's crisis plan is coordinated with their crisis plans.
- Ensure a process is in place for controlling access and egress to the school. Require all persons who do not have authority to be in the school to sign in.
- Review traffic patterns and where possible, keep cars, buses and trucks away from school buildings.
- Review landscaping and ensure buildings are not obscured by overgrowth of bushes or shrubs where contraband can be placed or persons can hide.

## Preparedness:

- Have site plans for each school facility readily available and ensure they are shared with first responders and agencies responsible for emergency preparedness.
- Ensure there are multiple evacuation routes and rallying points. Your first or second evacuation site options may be blocked or unavailable at the time of the crisis.
- Practice responding to crisis on a regular basis.

## Emergency Planning for Schools (continued)

- Ensure a process is established for communicating during a crisis.
- Inspect equipment to ensure it operates during crisis situations.
- Have a plan for discharging students. Remember that during a crisis many parents and guardians may not be able to get to the school to pick up their child. Make sure every student has a secondary contact person and contact information readily available.
- Have a plan for communicating information to parents and for quelling rumors. Cultivate relationships with the media ahead of time and identify a public information officer to communicate with the media and the community during a crisis.
- Work with law enforcement officials and emergency preparedness agencies on a strategy for sharing key parts of the school crisis plans.

### Response:

- Develop a command structure for responding to a crisis. The roles and responsibilities for educators, law enforcement and fire officials and other first responders in responding to different types of crisis need to be developed, reviewed and approved.

### Recovery:

- Return to the business of teaching and learning as soon as possible.
  - Identify and approve a team of credentialed mental health workers to provide mental health services to faculty and students after a crisis. Understand that recovery takes place over time and that the services of this team may be needed over an extended time period.
  - Ensure the team is adequately trained.
  - The plan needs to include notification of parents on actions that the school intends to take to help students recover from the crisis.



# Safety Activities

Get young people involved with emergency preparedness. Adapt ideas to fit your participants - at school, at home or across the community. Customize activities to support preparedness for severe weather conditions or natural hazards most common in your area. The key to preparedness for an entire community is communication. Share ideas, information and activity outcomes with others.

## **Family Safety Check List**

Use the check list to prepare for possible severe weather or natural disasters. Personalize your Family Safety Kit to include your special needs as well as local maps and community emergency phone numbers and information.

## **School Safety Check List**

Take 10 minutes to list all the things you think you would need to survive at school for up to 72 hours without any outside assistance in case of severe weather emergency. Share your items with others to create a Classroom Emergency Kit list. Based on the class list and your own personal needs, bring items from home to prepare the kit. What items might be shared? What items must be multiplied times the number of people in the classroom?

## **Hazard Hunt**

Identify dangerous situations and correct them.

**At School:** Form a "Hazard Hunt" committee to identify potential dangers in the classroom or other areas of the school. Look for tall, heavy furniture or breakable objects that could fall, flammable liquids that should be stored outside, dead tree branches or large overhanging limbs that could cause damage or desks that are too close to windows that might break. Prepare a list of recommended safety changes and present them to the authorities.

**At Home:** Look for items outside that might become deadly missiles in strong winds. Report on your "hunt" and the steps you took to correct each potentially dangerous situation.

## **Community Emergency Team**

Invite a member of your community's Emergency Management team or other safety preparedness officials to talk about community efforts in disaster preparedness. Demonstrate your home and/or school preparedness plans for an official critique.

## **Route and Re-Route**

Locate designated emergency shelters and evacuation routes on a local map. Then, work with a team to prepare simulated "emergency announcements" that could affect specific local road and bridge safety. Challenge other teams to map new evacuation routes that would avoid the dangers and get them safely to a designated shelter.

## **Drill and Practice**

Perform and evaluate FAMILY and SCHOOL SAFETY drills for a possible emergency in your area. Set up a "grading" system based on speed and accuracy in demonstrating necessary precautions.

## **Fact or Fiction?**

Find interesting facts, "old wives' tales" or your own weather "fiction" to challenge your friends and test their severe weather knowledge. Is it true that "truth is stranger than fiction"? How can understanding the facts help us prepare for severe weather?

## **Primary Preparation**

Develop skits, choral readings, video productions, puppet shows, puzzles, etc. to help younger students understand preparedness. Keep the information clear and entertaining. Remember, it's important for young children to understand what to do in an emergency, but not to be afraid of the possible situations.

## **Step Carefully**

Whether returning home after an evacuation or stepping out of a shelter after a tornado you have to learn to step carefully to avoid hidden dangers. Create a simulated disaster scene, using over-turned furniture and desks, piles of books, heaps of coats and sweaters, strewn toys, pencils and rulers and torn pieces of paper to simulate broken glass. The challenge is to make it through the area without climbing over or on anything that could fall or stepping on any "fallen power lines" or "broken glass." What kinds of real obstacles might you encounter in a real disaster? In what ways could you further protect yourself from these hazards as you step out?



StormReady is a nationwide preparedness program of the National Weather Service that uses a grassroots approach to help communities develop plans to handle all types of severe weather - from tornadoes to tsunamis. The program encourages communities to take a new proactive approach to improving local hazardous weather operations by providing emergency managers with clear-cut guidelines on how to improve their hazardous weather operations.

StormReady communities are better prepared to save lives from the onslaught of severe weather through better planning, education and awareness. No community is storm proof, but StormReady can help communities save lives. To be officially certified as StormReady, a county or community must:

- Establish a 24-hour warning point and emergency operations center.
- Have more than one way to receive severe weather forecasts and warnings to alert the public.
- Create a system that monitors local weather conditions.
- Promote the importance of public readiness through community seminars.
- Develop a formal hazardous weather plan which includes training severe weather spotters and holding emergency exercises.

South Dakota has six counties and six communities with StormReady designations: Brown, Beadle, Codington, Davison, Lake and Minnehaha Counties and the cities of Ethan, Huron, Madison, Mitchell, Mount Vernon and Sioux Falls.

For additional information about the StormReady program, visit the National Weather Service website: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov>.

# NOAA Weather Radio

Newspaper, radio and television are all good sources of weather data. However, if you want the most accurate and timely information, go to the source itself. You can listen to a weather radio designed to pick up broadcasts of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) provides continuous broadcasts of the latest weather information directly from the National Weather Service offices and these broadcasts are tailored for your specific area. A number of commercial manufacturers offer weather radios designed specifically for receiving NOAA's high frequency transmissions. NOAA Weather Radio broadcasts can usually be heard as far as 40 miles from the transmission site. The broadcast range depends upon a number of factors including signal strength, terrain, quality of your weather radio and current weather conditions.

With the implementation of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME), it is possible to program certain weather radios to sound an alert for only the counties desired in a specific NWR's broadcast area. The owner of a NWR with SAME technology would program the desired county into the radio. It will then alert the user *only* to weather emergencies for the specific county programmed. Older (non-SAME) NWR receivers without SAME capability would alert for emergencies anywhere within the coverage area of the NWR transmitter, even though the emergency could be well away from the listener. The SAME technology can eliminate this appearance of over-warning. You can find out more information about SAME Technology from the National Weather Service (NWS) -

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/nwrsame.htm>.

NOAA Weather Radio is not just for weather emergencies. It is a round-the-clock source of weather reports and information to help you prepare for the day ahead. Each NWS office tailors its broadcast to suit local needs. Routine programming is repeated every few minutes and consists of the local and regional forecast as well as the latest regional weather conditions. Additional information including river flood stages and climatic information is also provided.



# County Emergency Management Agencies



|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Aurora .....      | 605-942-7770 |
| Beadle .....      | 605-353-8421 |
| Bennett .....     | 605-685-6541 |
| Bon Homme .....   | 605-589-4214 |
| Brookings.....    | 605-692-5212 |
| Brown .....       | 605-626-7122 |
| Brule .....       | 605-234-3433 |
| Buffalo .....     | 605-293-3231 |
| Butte .....       | 605-723-0900 |
| Campbell .....    | 605-955-3598 |
| Charles Mix ..... | 605-487-7683 |
| Clark .....       | 605-532-5953 |
| Clay .....        | 605-677-7100 |
| Codington.....    | 605-882-6272 |
| Corson.....       | 605-273-4210 |
| Custer .....      | 605-673-8128 |
| Davison.....      | 605-995-8640 |
| Day .....         | 605-345-3222 |
| Deuel .....       | 605-874-8189 |

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Dewey .....     | 605-865-3470      |
| Douglas .....   | 605-724-2238      |
| Edmunds .....   | 605-287-4394      |
| Fall River..... | 605-745-7562      |
| Faulk .....     | 605-598-6222      |
| Grant .....     | 605-432-4637      |
| Gregory .....   | 605-775-2626      |
| Haakon .....    | 605-859-2277      |
| Hamlin.....     | 605-783-7831      |
| Hand .....      | 605-853-2408      |
| Hanson .....    | 605-239-4218/4423 |
| Harding .....   | 605-375-3313      |
| Hughes .....    | 605-773-7454      |
| Hutchinson..... | 605-387-5104      |
| Hyde .....      | 605-852-2519      |
| Jackson.....    | 605-484-5729      |
| Jerauld .....   | 605-539-0243      |
| Jones .....     | 605-669-7111      |
| Kingsbury ..... | 605-854-3711      |
| Lake .....      | 605-256-7611      |
| Lawrence .....  | 605-578-2122      |
| Lincoln .....   | 605-321-0220      |
| Lyman .....     | 605-869-2266      |
| Marshall .....  | 605-448-5181      |
| McCook .....    | 605-425-2085      |
| McPherson ..... | 605-439-3331      |
| Meade .....     | 605-347-4222      |
| Mellette .....  | 605-259-3371      |
| Miner .....     | 605-772-4533      |
| Minnehaha ..... | 605-367-4290      |
| Moody .....     | 605-997-3251      |



## County Emergency Management Agencies (continued)

|                 |              |                |              |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Pennington..... | 605-394-2185 | Sully .....    | 605-258-2244 |
| Perkins .....   | 605-244-5243 | Todd .....     | 605-856-4411 |
| Potter .....    | 605-765-2387 | Tripp.....     | 605-842-2300 |
| Roberts.....    | 605-698-3800 | Turner .....   | 605-297-6000 |
| Sanborn .....   | 605-796-4511 | Union .....    | 605-356-2351 |
| Shannon.....    | 605-455-2886 | Walworth ..... | 605-845-2800 |
| Spink.....      | 605-472-0750 | Yankton .....  | 605-668-5289 |
| Stanley .....   | 605-224-8750 | Ziebach.....   | 605-365-5129 |

## Tribal Emergency Management Agencies

|                                     |                   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe .....    | 605-964-4000      |
| Crow Creek Sioux Tribe .....        | 605-245-2456      |
| Lower Brule Sioux Tribe .....       | 605-473-5532      |
| Oglala Sioux Tribe .....            | 605-867-5141      |
| Rosebud Sioux Tribe.....            | 605-747-2559      |
| Santee Sioux Tribe.....             | 605-997-3891      |
| Sisseton Wahpeton Sioux Tribe ..... | 605-698-7661      |
| Standing Rock Sioux Tribe.....      | 701-854-7206/3644 |
| Yankton Sioux Tribe .....           | 605-384-3641      |



## Internet Addresses of Interest

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/eduinfo/>

The American Red Cross has many materials available for teachers, educators and presenters to use to help children and families learn how to stay safe and prevent or reduce the effects of disasters or other emergencies.

<http://www.redcross.org/services/disaster/beprepared/seniors.html>

The American Red Cross provides disaster preparedness information for senior citizens.

<http://www.fema.gov/hazards/>

While most disasters cannot be avoided, the Federal Emergency Management Agency provides information on things people can do to lessen the loss of life and property damage.

## Internet Addresses of Interest (continued)

<http://disasterhelp.gov>

Even though DisasterHelp provides the citizen resources oriented toward helping users easily find information and services across a wide range of relevant sources, the major objective is to provide first responders, emergency managers and homeland security advisors an online capability to collaborate with other members of the Disaster Management community.

<http://www.ready.gov/>

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has developed this website to assist citizens in learning about potential terrorist threats so that they are better prepared to react during an attack.

<http://www.ed.gov/emergencyplan/>

The website is designed to be a one-stop shop that provides school leaders with information they need to plan for any emergency, including natural disasters, violent incidents and terrorist acts.

<http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/>

Educating America's families on how best to prepare their homes for a disaster and tips for citizens on how to respond in a crisis is a mission of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov>

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.

[http://www.sddot.com/travinfo\\_weather.asp](http://www.sddot.com/travinfo_weather.asp)

The South Dakota Department of Transportation website includes links to assist South Dakota travelers.

<http://www.tornadopproject.com/safety/safety.htm>

In the United States, tornadoes have occurred in every month. So any time is a good time to review tornado safety procedures for home, school, work or in the car. There is also information about building storm shelters.

<http://www.lightningsafety.com/>

The National Lightning Safety Institute helps entities protect their resources from the unpredictable effects of lightning.

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov>

Lightning is a serious danger. Through this site you'll learn more about lightning risks and how to protect yourself, your loved ones and your belongings.





## Internet Addresses of Interest (continued)

<http://www.lightning.org>

The Lightning Protection Institute (LPI) presents information designed to provide you with a basic understanding of lightning, the severity of lightning strikes, lightning protection systems and the educational efforts of the LPI.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/hsb/extremeheat/>

The National Center for Environmental Health provides safety tips on how to protect yourself and others from excessive heat exposure.

<http://www.ibhs.org>

The Institute for Business and Home Safety's mission is to reduce deaths, injuries, property damage, economic losses and human suffering caused by natural disasters.

<http://www.iii.org>

The Insurance Information Institute's mission is to improve public understanding of insurance - what it does and how it works.

<http://mcps.k12.md.us/info/emergency/preparedness/index.cfm>

Montgomery County Public Schools in Rockville, Maryland, provides information for schools to assist in planning for emergencies.



## Homeland Security Advisory System

The Nation requires a Homeland Security Advisory System to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. The system provides warnings in the form of a set of graduated "Threat Conditions" that increases as the risk of the threat increases. Risk includes both the probability of an attack occurring and its potential gravity. Below are the levels along with suggestions for individuals:

**Low (Green):** Low risk of terrorism. Routine security is implemented to stop routine criminal threats. Citizens are advised to:

- Continue to enjoy your freedom. Freely continue to work, travel, and play.
- Develop a family emergency plan.
- Know how to turn off your utilities.
- Know what hazardous materials are stored in your home and how to properly dispose of them.
- Support the efforts of your local emergency responders.
- Know what natural hazards are in your area and how to protect your family.

# Homeland Security Advisory System (continued)

**Guarded (Blue):** General risk with no credible threat to a specific target. Citizens are advised to:

- Continue normal activities, be watchful for suspicious activities. Report criminal activity to law enforcement.
- Review family emergency plans.
- Be familiar with local natural and man-made hazards in your community.
- Increase emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water and supplies.
- Update immunizations.
- Volunteer to assist and support the community emergency response agencies.

**Elevated (Yellow):** Elevated risk of a terrorist attack, but a specific region of the United States or a target has not been identified. Citizens are advised to:

- Report suspicious activities at or near critical facilities to law enforcement.
- Take a first aid or Emergency Response class.
- Become active in your local Crime Watch Program.
- Learn what critical facilities are located in your community and report suspicious activities at or near these sites.
- Attend local emergency planning committee meetings to learn more about local hazards.
- Increase individual or family emergency preparedness through training, maintaining good physical fitness and health, and storing food, water and emergency supplies.

**High (Orange):** Credible intelligence indicates there is a high risk of local terrorist attack, but a specific target has not been identified. Citizens are advised to:

- Expect travel delays, baggage searches and restrictions as a result of heightened security at public buildings.
- Monitor world and local events.
- Report suspicious activities at or near critical facilities to local law enforcement.
- Avoid leaving unattended packages or briefcases in public areas.
- Inventory and organize emergency supply kits and discuss emergency plans with family members. Reevaluate meeting location based on threat.
- Consider taking reasonable personal security precautions. Be alert to your surroundings, avoid placing yourself in a vulnerable situation.

**Severe (Red):** Credible intelligence indicates there is a high risk of a terrorist attack and a specific target has been identified or a terrorist attack has occurred. Citizens are advised to:

- Remain calm.
- Review family emergency plans and put in to action.
- Gather emergency supplies.
- Monitor world and local events, stay tuned for information from the Emergency Broadcasting System.
- If you are not in immediate danger, remain at your location until notified to evacuate.
- Maintain close contact with your family and neighbors to ensure their safety and emotional welfare.